

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
USIE-00 INRE-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10  
DOEE-00 ACDA-12 OES-07 DOE-15 SOE-02 NRC-05 /145 W  
-----113717 240227Z /64

O 240134Z MAR 78  
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0234  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01064

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

VIENNA FOR IAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MNUC, PARM, PORG, UNSC, SF  
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE UNSC ACTION ON SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR  
ACTIVITY  
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REF: STATE 074812

1. MISSION AGREES THAT NIGERIAN ACQUIESCENCE TO OUR  
PROPOSAL FOR POSTPONING SC ACTION ON SOUTH AFRICA  
NUCLEAR ACTIVITY WOULD BE IMPORTANT IN DEFLECTING  
PRESSURES FOR COUNCIL ACTION. WE DOUBT, HOWEVER, WHETHER

A SUCCESSFUL APPROACH TO NIGERIA ALONE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT. LINGERING FRANCOPHONE RESENTMENT OVER NIGERIA'S SC CANDIDATURE (OVER THAT OF NIGER) WILL PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL OBSTACLE TO NIGERIAN VIEWS PREVAILING IN THE AFRICAN GROUP. MORE IMPORTANTLY, ISSUE REMAINS AN EMOTIONAL ONE AMONG AFRICANS, CERTAINLY IN NEW YORK. THERE IS A STRONG FEELING AMONG AFRICANS HERE THAT "SOMETHING" MUST BE DONE IN THE SC THIS SPRING TO INCREASE PRESSURES ON SOUTH AFRICA. THE NUCLEAR ISSUE HAS BECOME A POPULAR "SOMETHING" AND LOGICAL ARGUMENTS BASED ON OUR NON-PROLIFERATION GOALS WILL HAVE A TOUGH TIME PENETRATING THE ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL PERCEPTIONS DOMINATING AFRICAN ATTITUDES.

2. FOR THESE REASONS, AND BECAUSE NIGERIAN PERMREP HARRIMAN IS NEITHER WELL-VERSED IN NUCLEAR TECHNICALITIES NOR FREE FROM STRONG EMOTIONAL ATTITUDES ON THE ISSUE, MISSION BELIEVES THAT ANY APPROACH TO NIGERIANS SHOULD FIRST BE MADE IN LAGOS, THEN FOLLOWED UP IN NEW YORK. IN GENERAL WE WOULD SUGGEST SAME STRATEGY SHOULD USG DECIDE TO APPROACH OTHER AFRICAN STATES ON THE MATTER.

3. REGARDING SOVIETS AND CHINESE, BOTH HAVE CONSISTENTLY FOLLOWED AFRICAN LEAD IN MATTERS REGARDING SOUTHERN AFRICA. WHILE SOVIETS CAN CERTAINLY PUSH HARD BEHIND THE SCENES FOR SC MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT, MISSION DOES NOT  
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BELIEVE SOVIETS WOULD ACT WITHOUT SUPPORT OF AFRICAN GROUP.

4. IN VIEW OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS, MISSION BELIEVES THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD INCLUDE THE SOUTH AFRICA NUCLEAR ISSUE IN THE BRIEFING BOOK FOR THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH OBASANJO. FOLLOWING A LEAD-IN ABOUT THE INHERENT CAPABILITIES OF THE SAG IN NUCLEAR AREA, THE MAIN POINTS TO BE RAISED WOULD BE:

(A) A SHORT EXPLANATION OF OUR ONGOING EFFORTS TO PERSUADE THE SAG TO SIGN THE NPT AND ACCEPT INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS ON ITS NUCLEAR FACILITIES;

(B) OUR VIEW THAT AT THIS TIME A SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION MANDATING THE END OF ALL NUCLEAR COOPERATION WOULD MAKE IT MORE LIKELY THAT SOUTH AFRICA, IN DEFIANCE, ACTUALLY WOULD PROCEED TO DEVELOP A NUCLEAR WEAPON, BRINGING ABOUT THE VERY RESULT WHICH THE AFRICANS WANT TO BLOCK; AND

(C) OUR JUDGMENT THAT AN SC RESOLUTION WOULD ALSO

DEPRIVE US OF ANY REMAINING LEVERAGE TO DISSUADE THE  
SAG AND WOULD ASSURE ITS REFUSAL TO SIGN THE NPT.

5. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT OBASANJO WOULD RESPOND TO  
THIS PRESENTATION BY HIGHLIGHTING THE INTENSE CONCERN  
OF THE OAU, QUESTIONING THE VALUE OF ANY DIALOGUE WITH  
THE SAG ON NUCLEAR ISSUES, AND AGAIN URGING US AS A  
FOLLOW-ON TO THE MANDATORY ARMS EMBARGO TO TERMINATE  
ALL NUCLEAR COOPERATION. PRESIDENT CARTER, AFTER  
EXPLAINING IN SOMEWHAT MORE DETAIL THE NON-PROLIFERATION  
ASPECTS OF OUR SOUTH AFRICAN POLICY, COULD  
PROPOSE SENDING A SENIOR US OFFICIAL TO LAGOS TO DISCUSS  
THE MATTER FURTHER. HE COULD THEN REQUEST THAT  
NIGERIA DEFER ANY DECISION TO CALL A SECURITY COUNCIL  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01064

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

VIENNA FOR IAEA

MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT PENDING THE OUTCOME OF OUR  
CONSULTATIONS IN PRETORIA AND LAGOS.

6. REGARDING A MEETING OF THE FIVE ON THIS SUBJECT,  
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OUR INITIAL SOUNDINGS INDICATE THAT OUR ALLIES BELIEVE  
AFRICAN-ISSUES CIRCUITS IN NEW YORK ARE OVERLOADED UNTIL  
NEXT WEEK. FIVE ARE AGREED THAT ISSUE WILL NOT COME  
BEFORE THE COUNCIL IMMINENTLY. ACCORDINGLY, WE HAVE  
TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED A MEETING OF THE FIVE FOR 11:30,  
MARCH 28. MISSION SEES NO PROBLEM IN USG PRELIMINARY  
APPROACHES TO NIGERIANS IN LAGOS IN ADVANCE OF FULL  
CONSULTATIONS AMONG THE FIVE IN NEW YORK. LEONARD

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** POLICIES, RESOLUTIONS, NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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20 Mar 2014  
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